

A taste of the North End

By **HARRISON HAAS** hhaas@citizen.com | **Posted: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 6:00 pm**

BELMONT — The sounds and smells of Boston’s North End gave inspiration to 24-year-old Shaun Broers to open the restaurant, the Pasta Patio, just past the Belknap Mall in Belmont.

Previously home to the Garden Oasis restaurant off Daniel Webster Highway, the Pasta Patio brings a new flavor to the Lakes Region.

“I’ve always wanted to start my own restaurant,” said Broers. “It’s been a goal of mine.”

Broers worked in the food industry while growing up and his uncle had owned a restaurant. Having visited Boston’s North End for a number of years, he began learning some traits of the business and came up with some of his own ideas.

“I found an opportunity and I took it,” he said.

Broers took over the building in October and prepared to open on Jan. 16. Changes to the interior included adding partitions, new lighting and new furniture.

When asked why he chose Italian food for his restaurant, Broers said, “We need it around here; we really don’t have too many Italian restaurants in the area.”

Broers created the six-page menu with the head chef and it includes a wide range of traditional Italian cuisine along with house specialties such as the Porterhouse-cut veal chop and eight scampi dishes.

Throughout the week, the restaurant offers several lunch specials, including an all-you-can-eat soup, salad and bread special.

Each table receives complimentary salad and bread before meals. A full-service bar offers beer, wine and spirits.

“The restaurant is designed to be kid-friendly, not kid-tolerant,” Broers said. “Every waitress I’ve hired has experience with children. It’s a family restaurant.”

He said that, at the end of every meal, children can go up to the dessert bar and get a free sundae. For the adults, the dessert bar is filled with homemade treats including cannolis, ice cream puffs, five-layer chocolate cake and more.

During the warmer months, the 48-seat patio will be open for customers who care to dine outside. In addition, Broers said he might be adding a few menu items when summer arrives.

Broers said the name of the restaurant originated as a joke but soon evolved into the perfect title for his business.

“It’s catchy; people can remember it,” said Broers about the name. “In designing the restaurant, I really wanted to go with a different atmosphere — a family-comfortable atmosphere.”

Even though Broers is the owner, he said he helps out in almost every aspect of the business when it is needed most. Since opening the Pasta Patio, Broers has given jobs to 35 people in the area alone.

“I’ve been working since I was 18 to have my own business,” he said. “Hard work pays off.”

Broers resides in Meredith with his wife, Courtney, and his three-year-old daughter, Lenya. He has been living in the Lakes Region and enjoys what it has to offer.

“The Town of Belmont has been great,” said Broers. “Everyone was very helpful in the process of getting the restaurant up and running.”

The Pasta Patio is open for lunch and dinner between 11 a.m. and 11 p.m., seven days a week. Take-out service is available by calling 603-528-4443.